(c) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to make quick payment to these growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No arrears as such are pending with the Coffee Board for effecting payment to Coffee growers from out of the Coffee proceeds sold in auction. However, if some balance payment is due to the growers, the Coffee Board has also arranged to pay this amount.

Setting up a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai

138. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai to cater to the needs of the Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is expected to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu had sent a proposal to the Central Government for establishment of a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai. The proposal was referred to the Jaswant Singh Commission in 1983 for a report. The Commission recommended the establishment of a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai. Specific recommendations of the Commission were sent to the State Government in 1986 for views/comments, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No specific proposal, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, has been received from the State Government. No. decision can be taken by the Central Government without specific/complete proposal from the State Government.

Steps to control population

139. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of India according to 1990-91 Census;

(b) what is the percentage of increase of population in 1991 over 1981 Census;

(c) whether Government with all its efforts to control population have achieved any tangible result in this regard; and

(d) what concrete and effective steps are under the consideration of Government to contain population explosion in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI): (a) Based on the 1991 Census, the provisional population total for India is 683,329,097.

(b) The decadal growth rate of population for India during 1981-91 is 23.5 per cent.

(c) The Birth Rate which was 37.2 per thousand population in the decade 1971-81 has since come down to 30.5 per thousand population in 1989 as per latest available Sample Registration System estimates. The annual growth rate of population which has been consistently rising since 1951 and was 2.22 per cent in 1981 has now declined to 2.11 per cent in 1991.

(d) The strategy to contain population growth in the country involves improvement of quality of health services, strengthening health infrastructure, enhencing child survival rates through Universal Immunization Programme, providing power contraceptive methods, intensifying population education, enhancing community participation, adopting improved communication approaches, greater in-

volvement of voluntary organisation, greater efforts in training and retraining of personnel at the grass-root level, establishing greater inter-sectoral coordination strengthening linkage with related development programmes like female literacy and improvement of women's status and adoption of area intensive approach.

Improving the standard of education in rural areas

140. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a wide gap in the standards of education between the primary schools in the urban areas and the rural areas;

(b) whether Government plan to bridge the gap by taking immediate effective steps to improve the standard of education in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take up for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) to promote equality, National Policy on Education 1986 calls for provision of equal opportunity to all not only in access, but also in the conditions for success. It recommends adoption of common educational structure (10+2+3), laying down Minimum Levels of Learning for each stage of education and a substantial improvement in the quality of Primary Education. Some of the concrete steps taken in this direction are:

(i) improvement in provision of minimum essential facilities in all primary schools in the country under the scheme of Operation Blackboard;

(ii) The programme of Non-Formal Education for school dropouts, girls, and working children who cannot attend whole day schools.

(iii) establishment of district Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;

(iv) The provision of primary schools within 1 km walking distance from all habitation with a population of 300. In the case of SC/ST habitations, the norm is relaxed to include habitations with population of 200;

(v) provision of incentives to socio-economically backward children for free uniform, free text-books, attendance scholarship for girls and provision of mid-day meals;

(vi) provision of upper primary schools and upgrading of primary level according to the norms;

(vii) Laying down of Minimum Levels of Learning for the primary stage and setting up a procedure for learner's evaluation and assessment.

Payment of Royalty by M|s. Videocon to Foreign Parties

141. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Videocon Private Limited pays any royalty to any foreign party;

(b) if so, what is the amount thereof; and

(c) whether it is paid in Indian currency or in foreign currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) There is no company by the name Videocon Private Limited. As per records maintained by the Reserve Bank of India, no collaboration agreement with a foreign party has been entered by any company named as Videocon Private Limited. The Reserve Bank of India have the following collaborations on record:—